



Summer 2005

BLM and NPS Provide Technical Assistance to the Kingdom of Morocco

By Jeff McCusker, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM-Eastern States, Lower Potomac Field Station

In July 2005, an interdisciplinary group, assembled from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS), traveled to the Kingdom of Morocco to provide technical assistance on Morocco Rural Tourism Project. This 17-day detail was an opportunity to encourage tourism on this United States-funded project in the rural areas of Morocco and better distribute tourism income in the country.

Jeff McCusker, Outdoor Recreation Planner for BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES); Diane Jung, Partnerships Coordinator for the NPS in Alaska; and Antonia Hedrick, Graphic Illustrator with the BLM Boise State Office, spent 10 days visiting caves, canyons, scenic overlooks, a craft cooperative, and a tourism office in the southern and central tourism regions. A 5-day workshop followed consisting of 20 stakeholders from national and local governments, the private sector, and nonprofit tour guide associations. A previous BLM/NPS team developed designs for several trailhead parking areas and scenic overlooks through workshops for each region.



(From left)
Antonia Hedrick,
Jeff McCusker,
and Diane Jung
take a break while
on detail in front
of the Regional
Tourism Office in
Ifrane, Morocco.

Jackson Hotshot Fire Crew Assists with Fieldwork

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

Early June, the Jackson Hotshots traveled with BLM-ES Jackson Field Office Wildlife Biologist, Faye Winters, Geographic Information Specialist, Bob Schoolar, and Public Affairs Specialist, Shayne Banks to the Fort Morgan Peninsula in Alabama to build sand fencing along several BLM beachfront tracts.

Continued on page 3

In this Issue

	Page
State Director's Message	2
WH&B Adoption at Meadowood SRMA	3
Remnant 18th Century Farmstead in MD	4
Students Learn About Lewis and Clark	4
BLM-ES Meets with Oil & Gas Operators in Ohio	5
Project Archaeology Draws Students to a Potential Career	5
BLM-ES GIS Specialist Wins First Place for the Meadowood SRMA GEOBOOK	6
Former BLM Land in Wisconsin	6
Volunteers Help BLM-ES with WH&B Compliance Work	7
BLM-ES Participates at the 2005 Boy Scouts of America Jamboree	8
Students Learn About Wildlife and Outdoor Survival Skills	8
BLM-ES Photo Highlights	9
SCEP Students Arrive for Duty in Virginia	10
Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale	10
New Associate Field Managers	11
E-mail Brief	12
Comings & Goings	12



State Director's Message



BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) plays an important role in domestic mineral resources leasing, exploration, and production. The Energy and Minerals program is one of our largest programs. We are responsible for the management of 30,000 acres of public lands and about 40 million acres of subsurface Federal mineral estate. We also work very closely with the States, industry, and other Federal agencies across our 31-State area of jurisdiction to ensure our minerals are responsibly made available for our Nation.

With many changes and rising oil and gas prices, we are experiencing increased interest in oil and gas development. This past year, we have seen a significant increase in Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs). Our FY 2005 Annual Work Plan projected that we would complete 35 APDs, but we now expect to complete 100 APDs, with a projected backlog of approximately 67 APDs by the end of the year.

In the East, there has also been renewed interest in coal resources. The most recent sale generated a high bid of \$413.71 per acre. The winning bid was almost four times per acre higher than what a similar sale generated in September 2004.

This Administration considers America's future energy security as one of its top priorities. The recently passed Energy Bill will impact the bureau's role in energy and minerals development and, at the same time, create greater incentives for industry to help meet the demands for domestic energy. In addition, under the National Energy Plan, BLM has taken several steps to try and create a "business-aware" environment to allow industry to produce the energy our citizens demand.

The Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Rebecca W. Watson, said, "Business-aware means efficient, effective processes. We are encouraging plans of development (or PODs), Block Archaeology surveys, and Master Drilling Plans to eliminate redundant paperwork and minimize surface disturbance."

BLM is in the process of updating some of its operational guidance. One example is the Onshore Order Number 1, which moves BLM and industry to standardize the process for approving and processing APDs and related activities on all Federal and Indian (except the Osage Tribe) onshore oil and gas leases.

As you can see, there are many new developments in the energy and minerals program. I assure you that our capable staff at BLM-ES is up to the challenge of implementing the new changes to help meet our Nation's energy and minerals needs in an environmentally responsible manner.

BLM-ES' primary program areas include:

- ◆ Energy and Mineral Resources;
- ◆ Wildland Fire;
- ◆ Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance;
- ◆ Natural Resources;
- ◆ Lands and Realty;
- ◆ Cadastral Survey; and
- ◆ General Land Office Records Automation.

Michael D. Nedd
State Director, Eastern States



BLM-ES Holds 3rd WH&B Adoption at the Meadowood SRMA

By Jinx Fox, Natural Resource Specialist/Equine Lead,
BLM-Eastern States, Lower Potomac Field Station

From June 4-5, BLM-ES provided the public with another successful wild horse and burro adoption at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) on Virginia's Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton, Virginia. Thirty-two wild horses and burros found homes. The event drew a large audience of interested spectators, including school children and local equestrians. The adoption began Saturday morning with Auctioneer, Frank Bolton, entertaining both bidders and the general public with his antics to increase bidding. Animals were adopted through Saturday and Sunday, with a total of 32 animals finding new homes.

Several past adopters brought their adopted horses to the event. They provided the public with invaluable information about their adoption experiences and accomplishments with their magnificent adopted animals. Past adopters from Maryland included: Tina Marie Jones who schools her wild horse "Cisco" in dressage; Karen Brown and her adopted mare "Maeve," who are active in mounted horse rescue activities; and Lisa Shook who is a hardy trail rider on her mustangs "Axle" and "Ben." Local Mason Neck Peninsula resident and Meadowood neighbor, Marilyn Hildebeidel, who has adopted both horses and burros, brought one of her adopted mustangs.



Photo by Cherisse Tabron

Former adopter, Karen Brown, shows off her adopted wild horse "Maeve" at the WH&B Adoption in Lorton, Virginia, June 4-5. Maeve, at 19 years, is beginning a new career with a mounted search and rescue unit.

On Sunday morning, Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA, 8th) and his wife visited the adoption and received a tour by BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd. Congressman Moran was instrumental in BLM's acquisition of the Meadowood property, as it was in his District at the time. Meadowood is now in the 11th Virginia Congressional District, represented by Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA, 11th), after redistricting following the 2000 U.S. Census. Both Congressmen participated in the ceremony that opened Meadowood for limited public use in 2002.

BLM-ES also provided tents containing displays of the different BLM programs in the Eastern United States. The displays provided the public with information on BLM's fire, natural resources, minerals, lands, General Land Office and cadastral surveying programs.

Jackson Hotshot Crew...continued from page 1

In just 2 days, the Jackson Hotshots laid approximately 1 mile of sand fence along three separate beachfront tracts to help rebuild the dunes following the damage caused by Hurricane Ivan last year. The fence will also allow nesting sea turtles to pass through to higher nesting sites on the beach. In addition to building the fence, BLM personnel cleared debris that remained after the hurricane. Local residents were glad to see BLMers working on the tracts, and several residents came out to help. One resident wrote, "Seeing all of the development that is going on in this area, my wife and I were actually considering leaving. But I think we may now wait and see what direction the BLM takes with the land."

Unfortunately, days after the fence was completed, Tropical Storm Arlene swept the Gulf Shores, damaging the newly laid fence. However, the Crew was



Photo by Shayne Banks

The Jackson Hotshot Crew help to build a sand fence on a BLM beachfront tract on the Fort Morgan Peninsula in Alabama.

quick to respond and traveled back to the area to repair the damaged fencing. Most of the fencing survived Hurricane Dennis, and many areas showed accelerating sand deposition. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is assessing areas still in need of repair.



Remnant 18th Century Farmstead in Charles County, Maryland, Draws Public Interest

By Troy Ferone, Archaeologist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office, and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, External Affairs

From March 28 through April 1, 2005, the public and BLM-ES employees were given a unique opportunity to visit an historic archaeological site and interact with archaeologists involved in active fieldwork. The BLM-ES, in partnership with the College of William & Mary - Center for Archaeological Research, spent the week conducting the first archaeological evaluation of the historic Chiles Homesite, a remnant 18th-19th century homesite and farm, on Douglas Point in Charles County, Maryland. The property is managed by the Department of the Interior, BLM-ES, in collaboration with the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Troy Ferone, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office Archaeologist and Project Lead for the Chiles Homesite Investigation Project, along with five archaeologists from the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia, led tours, demonstrated the methods of archaeological evaluation, discussed the current findings in the area and emphasized the importance of managing and protecting historic resources on public lands. The results of archaeological fieldwork will produce a better understanding of historic lifeways and settlement patterns along this portion of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Photo by Peggy Riek



(From left) Elizabeth Monroe, Project Leader from the College of William & Mary's Center for Archaeological Research and Troy Ferone, Archaeologist from BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office, oversee work being done by Sarah Walker and Oliver Mueller-Heubach, archaeologists from the college, at the Chiles Homesite in Charles County, Maryland.

Based on documentary and architectural evidence, historians and archaeologists believe the Chiles Homesite was built around 1790 and occupied as a family residence and working farm into the early 20th century. Later occupants of the homesite included the Reverend William E. Chiles, an early minister of the Nanjemoy Baptist Church, and his descendents. By the 1950s, the house was in ruins and the land has since been reclaimed by dense forest.

In 2004, the BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station acquired funds from the Federal Highway Administration, through a TEA-21 Grant, to prepare a determination of eligibility for listing the site on the National Register, identify the major historic and cultural contexts of the site, and provide BLM with a master interpretive plan to guide future public interpretation. BLM plans to further involve the public, local communities, and schools in the construction of the "Chiles Interpretive Trail" in FY 2006.

Students Learn About Lewis and Clark

By Lars Johnson, Geologist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) presented the Lewis and Clark Rocks and Minerals program for 7th and 8th grade students at the Mississippi School for the Blind, in Jackson, Mississippi, in February 2005. The school was established in 1848 to serve children with a 50 percent or greater visual loss.

The program provided the students with "hands-on" examination of rocks, minerals, coal, oil, a drill bit, and various metal ores. They examined large and colorful Lewis and Clark maps produced by BLM-ES JFO. Posters from BLM's Science and Children Series were also presented to the science teachers for future use in classroom instruction.



BLM-ES JFO Geologist Lars Johnson visits the Mississippi School for the Blind, in Jackson, MS, to present the Lewis and Clark Rocks and Minerals program.

Photo by Margie Owens



BLM-ES Meets with Oil and Gas Operators in Ohio

By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

On April 14, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office Petroleum Engineering Technician Jim Wood met with about 70 oil and gas operators from southeastern Ohio and the surrounding area at the Southeastern Ohio Oil & Gas Association (SOOGA) meeting held in Marietta, Ohio. Jim was invited by Marty Miller, president of SOOGA and employee of Ohio L&M, a local oil company, to discuss BLM's Inspection and Enforcement program.

During the meeting, Jim explained BLM's role in the regulation of oil and gas lease production, primarily in the Wayne National Forest's Marietta Unit in Ohio. He discussed the most common issues

faced by operators in the area, which included: well identification, seal requirements, off lease measurement of oil and gas, and gas meter calibration frequency. He also discussed the differences between Federal leases, Federal reversionary leases, and private acquired leases. Following the presentation, Jim invited questions and provided handouts on topics related to Onshore Orders, royalty rate reduction, and Federal leasing procedures.

Jim's presentation led to an invitation from Rhonda Reda, Executive Director of the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program, to attend the upcoming annual Ohio Oil and Gas meeting in March 2006 in Columbus, Ohio.

Project Archaeology Draws Students to a Potential Career

By Judy Pace, Archaeologist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

For every teacher who is taught the importance of preserving our Nation's heritage, there will be at least two students who will want to become an archaeologist.

Patrice Junius, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) Outreach Coordinator began Project Archaeology 3 years ago with one teacher workshop. With great success, she has made visits to many public schools in the Jackson Public School System to present workshops that have drawn teachers from the Greater Mississippi Metropolitan Area. She has even created a network of contacts throughout the Southeastern United States.

Patrice makes presentations to potential teachers not only at the Mississippi University for Women (Columbus) and William Carey College in (Hattiesburg), but also at community colleges in Meridian and Ellisville. She explains the program's objectives and ways to increase math and science skills through archaeology. All workshops are accredited by the Mississippi College, which awards one unit of continuing education credit after completion of the workshop.

Project Archaeology is a national program, designed by the BLM, to teach young Americans to value and protect our Nation's rich cultural heritage,



Online Rudolph, USDA

(Right to left) BLM-ES JFO Outreach Coordinator Patrice Junius and Carolyn Turner, Mississippi Farm Bureau, compare workshop materials presented at one of four Environmental Education Workshops sponsored by the Southeast Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Council.

and to strengthen children's sense of personal responsibility for the stewardship of American's cultural heritage.

The teachers receive valuable information, ideas for new activities, and an appreciation for cultural resources to share in their classrooms. The workshop participants also benefit from presentations and information provided by archaeologists from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Department of Transportation about historic sites in the Jackson area.



BLM-ES GIS Specialist Wins First Place for the Meadowood SRMA GEOBOOK

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office, and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, External Affairs

In late-July, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) Bob Schoolar represented BLM-ES at the 2005 ESRI International Users Conference held in San Diego, California, where approximately 13,000 individuals from over 130 different countries were in attendance.

Bob's entry won First Place in the Exhibits/Multimedia Map Gallery category for his design and production of the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) GEOBOOK. Other BLMers contributing to the amazing feat, included: Vicki Josupait, Outdoor Recreation Planner, from BLM's National Science & Technology Center in Denver, Colorado, who co-authored the project, and Diane Nelson, Training Coordinator, from BLM's National Training Center (NTC) in Phoenix, Arizona, who is coordinating the GEOBOOK training and evaluation effort.

The GEOBOOK is an interactive digital book containing text, multimedia components, and embedded

GIS maps. The Meadowood GEOBOOK features environmental education, recreation, the wild horse and burro program, and natural resource management themes.

The GEOBOOK is intended to bring high-tech satellite imagery and GIS technology to a general audience through the use of a simple and user-friendly digital book format. This media was chosen because of the dynamic GIS capabilities included in the GEOBOOK authoring software. Through this technology, the user has an opportunity to explore the Meadowood SRMA and experience the use of sophisticated GIS technology rarely available to the general public. Individuals can explore the natural resources of the SRMA, an 800-acre tract managed by BLM-ES, located in Lorton, Virginia. The Meadowood SRMA was chosen as the topic of the GEOBOOK because of the diverse resources on the property and the ensuing educational opportunities.

Continued on page 12

Former BLM Land in Northern Wisconsin Becomes a Hiking Trail

By Barb Reinecke, GIS Technician, Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, and Marcia Sieckman, Acting Team Lead for Natural Resources, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

Boy Scout Josiah (Sye) Haack needed an Eagle Scout project, and the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (WI BCPL) needed a hiking trail constructed on the land which it recently received from the BLM, at pristine Lily Lake, near Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

Sye, with help from Samoset Council Boy Scout Troop 672 members, family and friends, put in many hours of hard work removing rocks, filling holes, cutting brush, pulling roots and raking to construct a 1-mile trail. As part of Sye's Eagle Scout project, he also helped to build a trailhead sign and two benches for the public to enjoy the overlook at Lily Lake.

Prior to the hiking trail construction, BLM-ES issued the patent for this area, on June 23, 2004, to the WI BCPL, which contained 32.47 acres, located in Oneida County, Wisconsin, under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926. Acquisition of Lot 12 allowed BCPL to consolidate their ownership in the Lily Lake Outdoor Recreation and



Photo by Dan Haack

Boy Scout, Josiah Haack (behind Lily Lake Trailhead sign wearing red cap), other troop members, family and friends were responsible for constructing a hiking trail on former BLM land at Lily Lake in Wisconsin.

Education Project. WI's BCPL can now protect over 65 acres of land and about 4,530 feet of undeveloped lakeshore; a resource that is rapidly disappearing in northern Wisconsin. The BCPL manages the land for preservation of important wildlife habitat values, dispersed outdoor recreation, and environmental education.



Volunteers Help BLM-ES with Wild Horse and Burro Compliance Work

By James Hood, Wild Horse & Burro Program Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

Tom Walker, a retired employee of the BLM, is now doing volunteer work for the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office's (JFO) Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance program. Tom's special interest in the program may, in part, be due to growing up on a ranch where he worked with horses and other livestock. When he retired, he wanted to do something to help with this program.

BLM requires that a compliance check be done for each animal adopted by the public. BLMers or appropriate personnel visit an adopter's home to check on the health and safety of the horse or burro. The adopter will have to meet specified BLM requirements, such as: facility, fencing, appropriate cover for the animal, and food and water availability. If any of the checks fall short of BLM standards, then the reviewer will discuss the actions to be taken to improve conditions for the animal with the owner. A follow-up visit will be scheduled to reassess the situation. In certain instances, such as animal abuse or poor conditions, an animal could be removed from the property.

Currently, Tom has been busy doing compliance checks of adopted horses in the State of North Carolina. He said, "This work gives me the opportunity to ensure that the adopted horses are being well cared for as well as the chance to meet interesting people who hold the care of their horses as a priority." As much as Tom enjoys retirement, he is pleased to renew his relationship with the BLM.

Tom, a native Californian, began his BLM career in 1973 in the Safford, Arizona, District Office as an Outdoor Recreation Planner. He went on to hold positions such as Natural Resource Specialist in the Eastern States Office, Division Chief of both the Solid Mineral Leasing and Planning and Environmental Coordination in the Headquarters Office, and Associate State Director, Colorado State Office. His last position was Deputy Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources in Washington, D.C.

Since his retirement in February 2003, Tom and his wife, Barbara (also a former BLM employee), moved

to the small community of Whispering Pines, North Carolina. There they spent their first year of retirement having a house built on a small lake, or as Barbara refers to it—a large mud puddle! Together, they enjoy gardening, fishing, traveling, and spending time with their family and friends.

In addition to retirees and volunteers, there are various clubs and organizations that promote BLM's wild horse and burro (WH&B) adoptions in the United States, such as:

The Free Spirit Mustang and Burro Club is a family-oriented organization, formed in 1985, with the principal goal of supporting and assisting the BLM's WH&B Adoption and Compliance program. Club members not only promote the program, but there are also certified club members who help with pre- and post-compliance reviews. Additionally they provide information, support, and guidance to prospective adopters who need assistance with their newly adopted animals (**Email: Mustang@FreeSpiritFL.org**). The Club has received recognition and awards from BLM for many hours of volunteer service.

Another organization involved in promoting the WH&B Adoption program include: the **Florida Wild Horse and Burro Association**, which has members from the Florida Panhandle to south Florida who are very active in promoting and helping at adoptions all over the State of Florida and into neighboring states. They promote the BLM's WH&B program by hosting the "Mustang Awareness Days" event and participating in various equestrian shows/demos throughout the year (**www.flwildhorse.org/**).

Also, the **South Florida Mustang Club** members actively promote and help at adoptions mostly in the southeastern region of the State. They have two Mustang Drill Teams which compete annually at the South Florida Fair in January in West Palm Beach (**www.sfmustangs.com/**).



BLM-ES Participates at the 2005 Boy Scouts of America Jamboree

By Ed Ruda, Lands Program Leader, BLM-Eastern States, Division of Land Resources

After spending 5 days at the 2005 Boy Scouts of America Jamboree, held at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, July 25 through August 2, I came to the conclusion that, "Our future is in good hands."

Although the Boy Scouts were faced with tragedy from the opening day, they persevered, even through summer thunderstorms and triple digit heat indices. In fact, they rose above each obstacle and faced each situation with determination and a desire to succeed—qualities we need in our future leaders.

Working as a presenter at the BLM's Environmental/Conservation Trail and Exhibit provided me the opportunity to speak with many of the thousands of Scouts attending the Jamboree. All Scouts showed a genuine interest in the BLM's programs and exhibited the utmost respect during our presentations.



Photo by Cindy Kahn

Boy Scout Jamboree attendees visit the BLM's Fire Wise Safety Exhibit to learn about fire safety during the 2005 Boy Scout Jamboree.

I also engaged in conversations with Scouts from all parts of the world about the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance program and Fire Wise Safety, which showed me the importance of sharing our BLM information with our future workforce.

Students Learn About Wildlife and Outdoor Survival Skills

Story and photo by Patrice Junius, Outreach Coordinator, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

Since the early 1990's, the BLM-ES and Piney Woods School have partnered to educate many students about the environment and natural resources. This year marks the 13th year students have packed their bags and headed to Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center, in Tishomingo County, in northern Mississippi (MS), for the Environmental Education Camp (EEC) experience.

The BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) and Piney Woods School (an historically black boarding school), signed a cooperative agreement in 1994, designed to further environmental education in grades 7 through 12. The agreement also encourages minority students to consider furthering their education in environmental sciences, and ultimately fostering workforce diversity in these fields.

Piney Woods students come to Mississippi from all over the world, and many of these students have never been in the woods. This camp provides the students with experiences they will remember for the rest of their lives.



In April, 16 students participated in the 13th EEC in MS.

The 530-acre Crow's Neck area not only consists of wildlife and beautiful lakes, but also provides direction for professional and enthusiastic naturalists. The campers learn "first-hand" experiences and skills by actively participating in a variety of educational and interpretive sessions on forestry, map and compass reading, wildlife, night hikes, survival skills, town hall meetings, and outdoor classroom sessions on live reptiles. Robert Jackson, a senior at Piney Woods School said, "I have seen snakes on television before and in cages, but never thought I would ever hold one and be this close."

The students also took a canoe trip and participated in an obstacle course that encourages team work and tests leadership skills.

Continued on page 9



BLM-ES Photo Highlights

Photo by Bruce Dawson



On April 22, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialist Shayne Banks staffed an exhibit about BLM-ES programs at the 2005 Earth Day event at the Atlanta Zoo in Georgia. This year's theme was, "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future." Over 3,500 school children from the Atlanta area were in attendance. In conjunction with the event, BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd and Jackson Field Office Manager Bruce Dawson attended the Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group meeting.

Photo by Geoffrey Walsh



On June 6, BLM-ES participated with other Federal agencies and non-government agencies in the 11th National Fishing Day at Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C. About 350 youths came to learn about fishing and boating, with their hearts set on catching the "big one."

Photo by Terry Lewis



From July 25-31, BLM-ES provided support at the Experimental Aviation Association annual "AirVenture" in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This air show is the largest in the country, with about 1 million people attending the show. About 125,000 people came through the Federal Pavilion, where 17 Federal agencies, including BLM's National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), participated at the event. Ben Hinkle, NIFC Fire and Aviation, presented special forums on restricted airspace to help prevent private aircraft interfering with agency aircraft fighting wildfires.

Photo by Jim Boylan



The Outdoor Writer's Association of America (OWAA) held its 78th conference in Madison, Wisconsin, from June 18-21. BLM-ES Public Affairs Specialist Bill Davenport oversees the work of a conference attendee during a "hands-on" activity to create a BLM leather coaster using the alpha angle code for freeze mark interpretation of wild horses. BLM-ES supports the conference each year, while promoting BLM's programs and sharing information with OWAA members, a powerful organization of journalists and industry public affairs professionals dedicated to the conservation of our natural resources and sound outdoor education.

Students learn at the EEC...continued from page 8

The EEC won its popularity among students who attended the Piney Woods Summer Enrichment Camp in July, which is the hottest time of the year. This year, the camp was held in April and targeted mostly sophomores, juniors and seniors who were interested in pursuing careers in natural resources. Students are chosen for the camp based on scholastic performance

and showing an extreme interest in learning about wildlife and natural resources. "We have an environmental science course and the majority of the students chosen for the camp came from those courses. I think they have learned a lot and are interested in jobs that will improve the future of the environment," said Lisa Blackwell, Director of Piney Woods Agricultural Services.



SCEP Students Arrive for Duty in Virginia

By Vicki Hatter, Student Career Experience Program, BLM-Eastern States, External Affairs

In mid-June, students and mentors from all over the country traveled to BLM's National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona, to participate in BLM's Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) Orientation. Four of the students then headed to BLM-ES to begin their BLM learning experience working in various program areas.

Ms. Lori-Ann Stubbs (Student Trainee) Land Surveyor, from Bangor, Maine, attends the University of Maine in Orono, Maine, studying Surveying Engineering Technology. This summer, Lori is working in the BLM-ES Cadastral Survey office. Since her arrival, she says she has already gained valuable knowledge and skills that will contribute to her journey ahead. Lori said, "The 'hands-on' learning experience has always been more beneficial to me than the traditional classroom setting. And the people at BLM-ES are really great to work with—very patient and always there to answer questions, which helps to make the SCEP program an even greater experience."

Ms. Kemba Anderson (Student Trainee) Land Law Examiner, from Dublin, Georgia, received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a minor in Economics from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, in 2002. Currently she is pursuing her Master of Business Administration (on-line) degree, and specializing in Finance from the Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Prior to BLM, Kemba worked with the Maryland State Government as a Claims Adjuster, where she assisted legal professionals in conducting liability investigations. This summer, Kemba not only works on minerals adjudication cases, but she is learning about BLM's competitive oil, gas, and coal lease sale processes.

Mr. Willie Bethune, Jr. (Student Trainee) Human Resource Specialist, comes from Virginia Beach, Virginia. Willie received his Bachelors of Business Administration degree in 2002 from Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Florida. He is currently working on his Masters of Business Administration (on-line) degree from Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. Some of Willie's duties this summer include: examining BLM personnel forms for accuracy, ensuring they are processed appropriately in the Federal Personnel Payroll System; processing personnel actions; creating training folders for all BLM-ES employees; and assisting with setting up the Summer Enrichment Program for SCEP students, summer interns, and newly hired employees.



Photo by Bill Davenport

(Bottom to top) BLM-ES SCEP students, Vicki Hatter, Kemba Anderson, Willie Bethune, Jr., and Lori-Ann Stubbs.

Ms. Vicki Hatter (Student Trainee) Public Information Specialist, comes from Grand Canyon, Arizona. Currently, she is studying Marketing/Accounting through Strayer University's (on-line) program. Prior to BLM, Vicki worked as an Office Assistant/Clerk with the National Park Service (NPS). Her duties included: payroll, travel, and management of the NPS' GSA Division vehicle fleet. This summer, Vicki will be learning about the procedures for marketing of wild horses and burros for adoptions, increasing her writing and editing skills, and updating several mailing lists.

Upon completion of college degrees and interim work duties at BLM-ES, each student looks forward to a BLM job with a career ladder. They will become the future workforce of the BLM, ready to responsibly carry on the important work and mission of the BLM.

Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Held

On June 23, 2005, BLM-ES held a Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale in Springfield, Virginia. Forty-five parcels of Federal subsurface mineral estate were offered for sale on the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests in Arkansas; the DeSoto, Homochitto, and Tombigbee National Forests in Mississippi; and the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. Revenue generated through the auction amounted to \$676,859, with \$508,488 going to the U.S. Treasury and \$168,371 to be shared by the affected States. Wildcard, Ltd. of Plano, Texas, paid over \$74,000 for 321 acres on the Ouachita National Forest, in Scott County, Arkansas. Wildcard, Ltd.'s bid of \$230 per acre, totaling \$74,060, was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.



New Associate Field Office Managers Onboard in Jackson and Milwaukee Field Offices

By Vicki Hatter, Student Career Experience Program, BLM-Eastern States, External Affairs

Photo by Patrice Junius



**Mary Figarelle, New Associate Field Manager,
Jackson Field Office**

Mary Figarelle was born and raised in Montana. There she began her BLM career of 27 years—working at BLM's Great Falls Resource Area, now known as BLM's Montana Oil and Gas Office.

Prior to her new position as Associate Field Manager for the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office in Jackson, Mississippi, Mary worked as a Support Operations Division Chief for the BLM's Alaska Fire Service in Fairbanks, Alaska. In this capacity, she was responsible for management of programs supporting wildland fire suppression for the northern half of Alaska. Mary has truly earned her stripes. Do you remember the 7 plus million acre burn in Alaska? She was instrumental in the

management of the incident, marking it the largest burn in history.

Other positions held within BLM include: Fortymile Field Station Manager, Northern Field Office, in Tok, Alaska (the first Alaskan community one drives through when traveling north on the Alaska/Canada (ALCAN) Highway). In Tok, Mary was responsible for the management of the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Fort Egbert National Historic Landmark, approximately 2.5 million acres of State and native selected Federal lands, and a wide range of other programs. Prior to this position, Mary worked as a Realty Specialist in the Winnemucca Field Office in Nevada, where she was responsible for lands and realty activities in the Buffalo Hills/Denio/Paradise Planning Units. She assisted with completing a complex Land Use Plan amendment for disposal of Federal lands in the Field Office area and participated on an interdisciplinary team for the Black Rock National Conservation Management Plan.

Mary began college at the University of Montana, and 8 years later graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Finance from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. Mary is the proud single parent of a 10-year old Queen Heeler, Sherdard Mix, named "Max," which is Frisbee-obsessed. She has been active with the Big Brother/Sister Program for the last 15 years and Toastmasters (on and off).

Tim O'Brien, a 29-year BLM veteran, was recently selected as Associate Field Office Manager in the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office in Wisconsin. Tim brings a wealth of knowledge and skills. He began his BLM career as a Range Conservationist in Vernal, Utah. He has also held positions in Carlsbad, New Mexico (NM); Washington, D.C.; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Taos, NM.

In his previous position as Assistant Field Manager for National Conservation Areas (NCAs) in Nevada's Las Vegas Field Office, Tim directly supervised the field office's two National Conservation Areas—Red Rock Canyon and Sloan Canyon. Providing leadership for the NCAs has allowed Tim an opportunity to use his partnership and collaboration skills that were sharpened through his extensive experience in oil and gas, solid minerals, supervision and budget.

Originally from Streator, Illinois, Tim holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Management and Wildlife Management from Oregon State University. He is also a 2000 graduate of the Leadership Academy. Tim and his wife, Phyllis, have two children: a 26 year-old daughter and a 24-year-old son.

Photo by James Engstrom



**Tim O'Brien,
New Associate
Field Manager,
Milwaukee
Field Office**



E-mail Brief

General Land Office.—"Thank you for posting the status of your URLs that will be down for a while. Let me take this opportunity to thank the BLM for their wonderful land patents website and for allowing us to see the original certificates and order copies. This website has been really helpful to me in researching my ancestors. I hope that the land patent website will be back up soon. I miss it, as I know others do who are researching their ancestors."
Lee Anne Center

Eastern States Vision Statement — As Guardians of the Past, and Stewards for the Future, Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

Vantage is published by the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, Office of External Affairs, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia. For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713. Visit our Web site at www.es.blm.gov Editor: M.M. Riek

Field Offices: BLM-ES, Jackson Field Office
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

BLM-ES, Milwaukee Field Office
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4617

BLM-ES, Lower Potomac Field Station
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, Virginia 22079

Comings & Goings

New employees.—**Student Career Experience Program, Student Trainees**—*Kemba Anderson* (Land Law Examiner), *Willie Bethune, Jr.* (Human Resources Specialist), *Vicki Hatter* (Public Information Specialist), *Lori-Ann Stubbs* (Land Surveyor); *Cynthia Rigney*, Human Resources Assistant, *Douglas Uran*, Survey Aid, and *Karen Malloy*, Supervisory Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, SO; *Stephen Klimetz*, Petroleum Engineer and *Timothy O'Brien*, Associate Field Manager, MFO; *Mary Figarelle*, Associate Field Manager, JFO; and *William Harold*, Maintenance Worker, Lower Potomac Field Station.

Transfers.—*Vaneshia Powell*, Human Resources Specialist, to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Retirees.—*Barbara Beaudin*, Management Analyst, *Regina Berry*, Land Law Examiner, and *Hilda Menacho*, Accounting Technician, SO.

GIS Specialist Wins First Place...continued from page 6

Bob plans to expand the GEOBOOK to include other tracts of land managed by the BLM. For more information, contact Bob at BLM-ES, JFO, at: (601) 977-5451. The BLM's NTC Center is coordinating efforts to use GEOBOOKs for distance learning, training, and administrating GEOBOOK author licenses. For more information, contact Diane Nelson at NTC, at: (602) 906-5548.

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, Virginia 22153**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



Eastern States — committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources in the 31 states east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

